

DOCUMENT No. 5301

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Evidence of NK 40912 Private JOHN LESLIE SEARANT.

John Leslie SEARANT, being duly sworn by His Honour, states:

My full number, name, rank and unit are NK.40912 Private John Leslie Searant, 8th Div. A.A.S.C., attached to 2/21 Aust. Infantry Battalion. My home address is Lambeth Street, Glen Innes, N.S.W.

I was taken prisoner on 3 February 1942 at Ambon, and confined at Tan Toey. I was released on 10 September 1945.

I saw the beating of the Dutch personnel on 12 July 1942. About 30 were beaten altogether. They were beaten up on the hill at the H.Q., about 250 to 300 yards from the camp. The Japanese guards hit them with sticks, piece of iron, pick handles and anything they could lay hold of. They were hit all over the body and head for about 20 minutes or half an hour; it may have been longer. Even after they had fallen down the guards continued to beat them. This was witnessed by most of the men in the camp. I could not identify any particular guard engaged on this beating.

I saw the Japanese place a large number of bombs in a transport shed in the centre of the camp area in about October 1942. They were placed in the officers' quarters and about 50 or 70 yards from the hospital. The Americans bombed the camp on 15 February 1943. There were no markings on the camp to show that it contained prisoners-of-war. As a result of the dump being hit, 10 men were killed and quite a number injured by shrapnel.

I saw the beating of about 23 Australian prisoners on about 19 or 20 November 1942. These men had been accused of breaking camp. The Japanese took them up the hill to the Headquarters where they belted them until they could not stand. Those who could not stand were tied erect to a tree. The guards used pick handles and pieces of hose pipe to belt the Australians. They were hit mainly around the back. Eleven in particular were belted all over the body.

A Japanese guard nicknamed "Gold Tooth" was one involved in the beating. I cannot identify any of the others.

I saw eight of the men who came back to the camp after the beating. They were very badly bruised down the backs of the legs and on the buttocks. I did not see the eleven again. I saw them being taken away from the hill, some in a staff car and some in a truck, but never saw them again.

I was put on the "long carry" 13 times during 1944. The last occasion was just before Christmas. The distance of the long carry was about



eight miles over very rough, rugged country made up of broken coral with gullies and steep hills. We had to go on all fours sometimes to crawl up the hills. It took us about five hours to complete the journey with a load. I carried bags of cement and 150-lb. bombs. The bags of cement weighed 94 lbs. Two men were detailed for each bag; when one could carry it no further the other took over. The Japanese guards did not actually bash us but made us hurry along. Sometimes we had good guards who would give us a fair go, but on one occasion we were guarded by some Koreans who kept us moving all the time.

At that time my weight was about 7 stone 6 lbs. My normal weight is 10 stone 6 lbs. I was in hospital just after we were taken prisoner but not after that.

I used to go out on working parties. We did all classes of work, such as carrying coconut logs, digging tunnels and building tank traps and pillboxes; we also had to carry cement blocks. While I was on these working parties I received quite a few lashings for trying to ease up on the work a bit. In the majority of cases, it was for no reason at all. We were given four or five smacks across the buttocks with a stick and a couple of times were hit on the head. I was knocked over a couple of times. I do not know the names of any of the guards involved in this. While digging the base for an oil tank on one occasion I saw a Japanese guard nicknamed "Five in one" bash some of the Australians. He used to smack them on the face with his hand and knock them down; when they had fallen he used to kick them.

I certify that the above evidence is true and correct.

Taken and sworn before me at Morotai  
on this 25th day of September 1945

A. MANSFIELD

Commissioner

J.L.SEARANT.

5301-1  
Ex 1823A

ジョン、レスリー、シーラント 誓約シテ供述ス私ノ全  
名、番號、階級及所屬ハ  
氏名 ジョン、レスリー、シーラント  
置籍 濠洲軍歩兵大隊 2/21 所屬  
住所 A A B O 第八師團 N X 第四〇九一二番  
ニュー・サウス・ウェールズ州クレイン、インス町ラン  
ベス街

私ハ一九四二年（昭和十七年）二月三日「アム  
ン」デ補ヘラレ「タン、トリエイ」ニ收容サレマ  
シタ。  
私ハ一九四五年（昭和二十年）九月十日放免サレ  
マシタ。  
私ハ一九四二年（昭和十七年）七月十二日オラン  
ダ人が撲ラレルヲ見マシタ。約ソ三十人ノモノ  
ガ一團トナツテ撲ラレマシタ。司令部ノアル丘ノ  
上デ收容所カラ二百五十乃至三百ヤードノ處デ撲  
ラレタノデス。日本ノ警備兵ハ擧切レ、鐵片鶴嘴  
ノ柄ソノ他何デモ彼デモ手當リ次第ノモノデ打チ  
マシタ。二十分乃至三十分間暴デモ頭デモ處嫌ハ  
ズ打チマシタ倒レテモ尙ホ撲リ潰ケマシタ。收容  
所ニ居タモノハ大概是ヲ見マシタ。私ハコノ殴打  
ニ參加シタ警備兵ハ誰レダカ思イ出セマセン。

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RETURN TO ROOM 361



5301-2

私ハ一九四二年（昭和十七年）十月頃私ハ日本兵  
ガ陳營ノ中央ニアル隠送車庫ニ多數ノ爆彈ヲ置  
タノヲ見マシタ。

ソノ爆彈ハ病院カラ五十乃至七十ヤード位ノ士官  
宿所ニ置カレマシタ。一九四三年（昭和十八年）  
二月十五日アメリカ軍ハ收容所ヲ爆撃シマシタガ  
ソノ收容所ニハ補虜收容所トモ何トモ標識ハ出テ  
居マセシデシタ。投下爆彈ハ命中シタ結果十人位  
ガ殺サレ榴霰彈デ多數ノモノガ傷キマシタ。

私ハ一九四二年（昭和十七年）十一月十九日又ハ  
二十日頃約二十三名ノ濠洲兵ノ捕虜ガ撲ラレテイ  
タノヲ見マシタ此ノ人達ハ收容所ヲ脱出シタコト  
ニヨリ告訴サレタノデアリマス日本兵ハ彼ヲ丘  
ノ上ノ本部ニ連行シ立ツテ居ラレナイ位マデ帶皮  
デ撲リツケマシタ、立テナクナツタモノハ樹ニ真  
直ニク、リツケマシタ警備兵ハ濠洲兵ヲヒツベタ  
クノニ鶴嘴ノ柄ダトカホース等ヲ用イマシタ、日  
本兵ハ主ニ背ヲ打テマシタガ特ニ十一名ノ者ハ脊  
中處カマワズ打タレマシタ。

「金ノ齒」ト綽名サレタ日本ノ警備兵ハ此毆打ニ  
遠果シテ后リマシタガ私ハ他ノモノハ憶ヒ出シマ  
セン。



5301-3

私ハ撲ラレタ後、收容所ニ歸ヘサレタモノヲ八人見マシタ彼ラハ脚部ノ背部ヤ臀部ヲヒドク打撲傷受ケテ居マシタ。私ハソノ十一人ノモノニ二度ト逢ヒマセシデシタ多分備付ケノ運搬直カツラツクデ丘上カラ他ニ移サレタモノト思ヒマス。私ハソノ人々ニモウ逢ヘマセシデシタ。

私ハ一九四四年（昭和十九年）ノ間二十三回所謂「長距離輸送」ヲ命ゼラレマシタ。ソノ最後ノ場合ハ丁度、「クリスマス」ノ直前デシタソノ長距離輸送ハ約八哩位ノ距離デ、形ノ違ヘナイ珊瑚カラ成ル険シイ谷ヤ丘ノアル實ニオ粗末ナ田舎路デシタ。私達ハ四ツ遣イニナツテ丘ヲ攀登ラネバナラナイコトモアリマシタ。重荷ヲ背ツテソノ旅ヲ終ルノニ五時間位モカ、ツタコトモアリマシタ、私ハセメント

袋ヤ百五十ポンドノ爆彈ヲ運ビマシタ。ソノセメント袋ハ九十ポンドアリマシタ。一ツノ袋ヲ二人デ擔任シ、ソノ一人ガソレ以上運ベナクナルト他ノ一人ガ運ブ譯ナノデス。日本ノ警備兵ハ實際ニ私達ヲ打テマセシデシタガ急ガセマシタ。時ニ善良ナ警備兵ニ附添ハレタコトモアリマシタ、ソノ警備兵達ハ乘ニ歩カセテクレマシタガ而シ或ルトキ私達ヲ始終動かシテ居ツタ



5301-4

朝鮮出身ノ警備兵ニ附添ハレタコトモアリマシタ  
ソノトキ私ノ身ハ七ストン六ポンド／一〇四ポ  
ンド／デシタガ私ハ不斷十ストン六ポンド／一四六  
ポンド／アリマシタ。私ハ補房ニナツタ當時入院  
シマシタガソノ後ハソノ取扱ヒヲ受ケタコトハ  
アリマセン。

私ハ常ニ勞務班ニ加ワリマシタ。私達ハ凡ユル勞  
動ヲ致シマシタ例ヘバコ、ナツトノ樹ヲ運ンダリ  
トンネルヤ戰車壕ヲ堀タリ、小舎ヲ建テタリナ  
カ致シマシタ。私達ハ又セメントヲ運ビマシタ  
私ガ勞務班ニ屬シテ居タ間ニ、私ハ少シ仕事ヲナ  
マケマシタノデ、二三回強打サレマシタ。大部分  
ハ全ク理由ノナイコトデス。私達ハ校デ四五回オ  
臂ト、二三回頭ヲ撲ラレマシタ。私ハ二回程コッ  
ビドクヤツ、ケラレマシタ。私ハ是レニ参加シタ  
警備兵ノ名前ヲ知リマセン私達カ油槽ノ基礎工事  
ヲヤツテ居タトキ私ハ日本ノ警備兵デ「一人デ五<sup>イタ</sup>人<sup>デ</sup>」  
人前ト綽名ノ附イタモノガ他ノ歐洲兵ヲ強クヤ  
ツ、ケテイルノヲ見マシタ。彼ハイツデモ平手デ  
顔面ヲ撲リツケルデス、ソシテ倒レルト蹴飛ハ  
スノデシタ。